

HB 825 -- Removal of Ice or Snow from Motor Vehicles

Sponsor: Morgan

This bill specifies that any driver operating a motor vehicle on a highway, street, or roadway in the state has an affirmative duty to make all reasonable efforts to remove any accumulated ice or snow from any exposed surface of the vehicle prior to operation. A law enforcement officer can stop a person in violation of these provisions and if the officer believes the accumulated ice or snow poses a threat to persons or property. A person violating these provisions will be subject to a fine of at least \$25 but no more than \$75 for each offense whether or not the snow or ice is dislodged from the vehicle. In addition, every day a violation occurs will be considered a separate violation. Any driver of a vehicle in violation of these provisions whose moving vehicle has snow or ice dislodged and it strikes another vehicle or pedestrian causing injury or property damage will be subject to a fine of at least \$200 but no more than \$1,000 for each offense. Any driver, operator, owner, lessee, or bailee of a commercial vehicle in violation of these provisions whose moving commercial vehicle has snow or ice dislodged and it strikes another vehicle or pedestrian causing injury or property damage will be subject to a fine of at least \$500 but no more than \$1,500. However, a driver found in violation of these provisions will not have points assessed to his or her driver's license under Section 302.302, RSMo.

The bill does not apply to a driver operating a vehicle during a snow or ice storm that began during and continued for the duration of the vehicle's operation, a driver of a vehicle that is parked, a driver of a vehicle or a vehicle carrying an intermodal freight container who is not in physical possession of the vehicle or container at the time the snow or ice accumulated, or a driver of a commercial vehicle traveling to a location that has equipment to remove snow and ice and the driver has not passed the location. A law enforcement officer has the authority to inspect any documentation relating to the route traveled by the driver of a commercial vehicle.

All moneys collected from violation will be deposited into the newly-created Motor Vehicle Snow and Ice Removal Safety Fund to be used by the Director of the Department of Public Safety to establish a public awareness campaign educating the public on the importance of removing snow and ice from the exposed surfaces of vehicles prior to operation. The director, in conjunction with the State Highway Patrol and other law enforcement agencies, must establish and maintain a data collection system to be used to determine the number and seriousness of motor vehicle accidents caused by the dislodging of snow or ice from vehicles. The

director must file an annual report to the General Assembly analyzing the information gathered through the data collection system and recommending way to reduce the number and seriousness of accidents.